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PUBLIC COMMENTS - MINNEAPOLIS - 6:00 - March 16, 2011

In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company
Certificate of Need Application for
Two 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Lines in Minnesota

PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-10-694

March 16, 2011

Plaza Verde.
1516 East Lake Street.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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1 MR. STORM: Terry Barnes. Please step to
2 the podium. State and spell your name.

3 MS. BARNES: Hi. My name is Terry
4 Barnes. And I moved to this community this past
5 year. I live at 2601 35th Avenue South. That's in
6 the northeastern part of this electrical district
7 that you're talking about.

8 Immediately upon moving here I got myself
9 involved in neighborhood energy workshops. Got an
10 energy audit on my new home, made good use of some
11 wonderful light bulbs that were provided to me, I
12 think through Xcel Energy. Used many of the
13 benefits that came through that program; insulation
14 in my attic, new furnace, new doors, windows. Many
15 of those are going to have a wonderful effect on my
16 gas bill. The electric light bulbs will help with
17 my electric bill.

18 In the process of experiencing the
19 program, I did not see the addressing of
20 refrigeration in my home or air conditioning and
21 reducing peak load for me as a customer. I think
22 those would -- are my top electrical users in my
23 home. Light bulbs are wonderful, but I think air
24 conditioning and refrigeration is where most of my
25 power needs are as a very small user.

1 You had asked us to identify what we
2 would like you to look at in the environmental
3 review. I don't completely understand your language
4 here, but I suppose I would want you to look at the
5 no-build alternative.

6 For large users, I think we have more
7 opportunity, either in those corridors you spoke
8 about or, particularly large users in industry who
9 need significant power needs, or the hospitals and
10 big institutions that have needs, to look at some
11 alternative fuel; solar, wind, to get them the
12 generation that they need that can offset high peak
13 needs or whatever the utility might need to decrease
14 the need.

15 My concern is I think there are hazards
16 with high voltage lines. I'm sorry I wasn't part of
17 this process when you were talking about routing.
18 But if that has an effect on the Midtown Greenway,
19 that was the primary reason I moved to this
20 community, because of Midtown Greenway and if this
21 power line indeed would need to use those spaces, I
22 think it would have tremendous environmental impact.
23 And I don't know what your findings were about the
24 routing, so I defer to that. But can you answer
25 that?

1 MR. STORM: Yeah. Terry, as I said, we
2 conducted about two-thirds of the routing process
3 before we stopped. Part of that was scoping and
4 then doing the draft environmental impact statement
5 and then taking comments on that and issuing a final
6 impact statement before it went into the hearing.

7 That document did cover, both from a
8 generic standpoint and a specific, each route
9 standpoint covered areas such as EMF, aesthetics,
10 environmental justice, those areas. I would
11 encourage you to either contact me if you want a
12 copy of the EIS yourself or go to our website, the
13 energy facility website, and the document is there.
14 And it's broken into manageable sizes in PDF so you
15 can look at the sections and go through it.

16 As far as your other comment, if you look
17 at the draft scoping document for this procedure,
18 you can see that one of my items, 3.2, talks about
19 demand side management. So we will be exploring
20 what has Xcel done to date in demand side management
21 and what could they squeeze out of it going into the
22 future and what they plan on squeezing out of it
23 going into the future.

24 MS. BARNES: Correct. I think they're
25 really moving forward on this energy conservation,

1 which I think they've been doing for 25, 30 years.
2 But it's just that between \$30 to \$50 million can
3 buy an awful lot of greatly improved mechanical
4 devices. There could be a lot better refrigerators
5 out there. I think we've got a whole bunch of old
6 clunkers out there. A lot of improved air
7 conditioning alternatives. I think we've got a lot
8 of mechanical stuff that \$30 to \$50 million could
9 really improve.

10 And so the long and the short is my hope
11 is the protection of our greatest resource in these
12 communities right now where we are seeing growth is
13 along that Midtown Greenway, and that we keep that
14 secured. And if a power line, hopefully not real
15 high power -- I'm sorry, I don't know well enough
16 about transmission, but that that could be an
17 underground sort of a response that could take it in
18 another east-west corridor, other than on the
19 Greenway.

20 MR. STORM: Terry, just for your
21 information, during the routing docket we evaluated
22 various routes and then various configurations, one
23 of them being underground. And we carried that
24 through the environmental impact statement and that
25 was also carried into the public hearing. And the

1 ALJ did release a report with her recommendation to
2 the PUC. She recommended a specific route and she
3 did recommend that route be placed underground.

4 MS. BARNES: Okay. Thank you. Last name
5 is Barnes, B-A-R-N-E-S, T-E-R-R-Y.

6 MR. STORM: Frank Lorenz. Please state
7 and spell your name.

8 MR. LORENZ: All right. My name is Frank
9 Lorenz, L-O-R-E-N-Z. I'm representing myself as a
10 Hennepin county taxpayer and ratepayer. And I live
11 in the western suburbs, but my offices are west of
12 Lake and Hennepin. So whatever additional asset,
13 expenditures Xcel Energy makes are ultimately going
14 to be paid by the ratepayers, among which I am one.

15 So my concern is primarily that we get a
16 reasonably quick resolution to this and select a
17 cost alternative that is sensible. If we weren't in
18 a recession, one of the big arguments would be,
19 well, every year we wait the cost will go up 10
20 percent. That's no longer true because there's so
21 many construction workers out of work that costs
22 will probably say relatively flat. So that driver
23 of emergency isn't around.

24 But you just mentioned that the initial
25 route evaluation came with a recommendation for

1 underground lines, but where would they go? Where
2 would they have been recommended to go?

3 MR. STORM: The ALJ recommended 28th
4 Street.

5 MR. LORENZ: Okay. And that would mean
6 moving all the utility lines that are in the street
7 already? The water, sewer, anything else, is that
8 correct?

9 MR. STORM: I believe that Xcel feels
10 that they can install that line with minimal impact
11 to the existing infrastructure that's there.

12 MR. LORENZ: Do you have any idea of what
13 the cost of doing the underground along that route
14 would be, compared to overhead transmission towers
15 along the top of the Greenway?

16 MR. STORM: I'm probably going to ask
17 Xcel to give you that number. But that was like --
18 well, I have a ballpark, but I'll have Paul give the
19 numbers for that.

20 MR. LEHMAN: Actually, I'm going to walk
21 back to our project manager and let her -- Betty
22 hasn't spoken yet.

23 MS. MIRZAYI: I'm Betty Mirzayi, spelled
24 M-I-R-Z-A-Y-I. And Betty is B-E-T-T-Y. And I'm a
25 project manager for Xcel Energy on this project.

1 Along the top of the Greenway the cost is
2 estimated to be about \$3 million for installing
3 overhead lines. And on 28th Street there's about an
4 additional \$12 million added to go underground.

5 MR. LORENZ: So going underground would
6 be \$15 million?

7 MS. MIRZAYI: That's correct.

8 MR. LEHMAN: That's correct, yes.

9 MR. LORENZ: All right. So it's going to
10 cost five times as much to bury lines as to put them
11 on towers. I don't know what that works out to in
12 terms of raising electrical rates, but it's not
13 zero.

14 MR. STORM: Frank, if you go back and
15 look at the environmental impact statement that I
16 put together for this project, one of the things
17 that I did, although the PUC -- my role is not to
18 get involved with who pays for mitigation. But I
19 did, as a factual thing, lay out what the projection
20 was, and you can check the document for this, what
21 the projection was if the county, the city, or all
22 of the ratepayers pay for that additional cost over
23 a series of period of time. But there's a chart in
24 there, in my EIS, that lays that out, to give you an
25 idea.

1 MR. LORENZ: All right. And is my
2 understanding the Public Utilities Commission
3 decides how wide a net Xcel is going to be able to
4 cast in spreading those rates? I mean,
5 theoretically, you could argue that because people
6 from the five-state area come to Abbott Northwestern
7 to have heart surgery, we should be able to pass
8 those rates along in Xcel's ratepayer group outside
9 the state. Now that probably is not going to
10 happen. A good idea that is dead in the water.

11 But nonetheless, I guess my concern is
12 that the lady that spoke before I came up here made
13 a lot of good points about energy conservation on
14 the homeowner level, your own personal appliances.
15 But from where I see it, people are buying the
16 biggest possible TV that they can possibly get
17 through the door of their house, and those things
18 are energy pigs. They're also buying the most
19 sophisticated computer that they can possibly
20 afford. And by the end of 2012 the amount of
21 electricity that's going to be required to run the
22 internet, including the warehouses full of servers
23 on the west coast in the United States, will consume
24 more electricity to run the internet than the entire
25 nation of Australia uses, if that gives you some

1 sort of magnitude for how prolific we are in
2 consuming energy.

3 So I don't think there's much of a chance
4 of being able to get Abbott Northwestern to run
5 their air conditioning in the summer from solar
6 panels. Now, I would be happy to be proven wrong.
7 But it seems to me that the desire for power,
8 between the restaurants in uptown, Abbott
9 Northwestern's expansion and the several thousand
10 new apartment units that are built in uptown, the
11 several thousand that are scheduled to be built, you
12 have no chance of getting past this problem with
13 conservation. And if that's true, then you're
14 running a big risk if you don't get the transmission
15 lines built. So if you can convince everybody to
16 really be serious about personal conservation, it
17 would be a wonderful thing.

18 But the final thing, and then I'm going
19 to step away, the papers are full about what a
20 wonderful world it's going to be when we start using
21 electrical cars; there will be no more tailpipe
22 emissions and everything else. But those cars need
23 electricity and if this country actually moves to
24 use electric vehicles--and they've been stalled on
25 it for 40 years--but if now is really the change,

1 then Xcel Energy is going to be back, not asking for
2 one new power plant, but ten because the amount of
3 electricity to run those cars is going to be
4 humongous. So we may be arguing here about pennies
5 on the dollar. That's another issue.

6 But I see no real hope of people
7 modifying their behavior significantly enough,
8 between their TV sets and their computers, to reduce
9 the cost -- to reduce their consumption of
10 electricity. They're just not doing it. And if
11 they don't do it, if Xcel doesn't build the
12 transmission line, the lights are going to be going
13 out in the summer and the freezers in the
14 restaurants on Hennepin Avenue are going to be
15 melting down.

16 So, you know, I would love to see people
17 actually walk the walk. They love to talk about
18 conservation, but they're not doing it and Xcel
19 Energy cannot force them to do it. You can help
20 them to do it, and I believe you're already doing
21 that, but you may be talking to a tree. So with
22 that, I'm going to step away from the mic.

23 MR. STORM: Thank you, Frank.

24 CarrieAnne Johnson.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Don't ask me.

1 MR. STORM: Sorry.

2 MS. JOHNSON: All right.

3 MR. STORM: Please state and spell your
4 name.

5 MS. JOHNSON: My name is CarrieAnne
6 Johnson, C-A-R-R-I-E, A-N-N-E. Johnson,
7 J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

8 I live across the street from the Xcel
9 Hiawatha maintenance facility and I live one block
10 from the proposed Xcel Hiawatha substation.

11 A couple of my questions that I just want
12 to get out of the way. First was I was wondering if
13 people who sign up for that list, if they're going
14 to get automatic notifications of when the upcoming
15 hearing is going to be?

16 MR. STORM: Carrie, if you signed my
17 project contact list--you can also sign up for it
18 online--then you will get notification of the public
19 hearing. You will get notification of availability
20 of the environmental document.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Great. So and
22 then -- and then I guess something that it dawns on
23 me -- I have plenty of comments that I could offer
24 that would go way beyond five minutes. So what I'm
25 wondering, if I could offer -- since I can't afford

1 to buy you the movies and books, I'm wondering if I
2 could offer you three books and two movies that
3 are -- all of them easily available that I would
4 love everyone in the PUC and everyone in Xcel to
5 watch and read. And that would be *Toolbox for*
6 *Sustainable City Living*, specifically the chapter on
7 energy, by Scott Kellogg and Stacy Pettigrew.
8 There's another one called *Coming Clean: Breaking*
9 *America's Addiction to Oil and Coal*, by Michael
10 Brune.

11 And then, more importantly, *Power Down:*
12 *Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World*, by
13 Richard Heinberg. And if you're not the reading
14 variety, please just watch *The Age of Stupid*. The
15 name says it all. And *Collapse*, which is Michael
16 Ruppert.

17 The problem that I have with this process
18 thus far and reading -- I mean, not in terms of
19 accessibility, that has been awesome, however, the
20 way that it's presented -- the way that it's
21 presented, the way that it's written is based upon
22 the assumption that we are all three-year-olds who
23 are crying to get what we want, and that Xcel has
24 been spending the time from the year 2001 to the
25 year 2008 just scrambling around, fixing every

1 little thing to just fill our bellies with our
2 energy needs. But I, as a citizen who is just
3 somebody working, living, running around with my
4 child, had no clue. I didn't have access to that
5 knowledge. I think the rest of the community, on a
6 general basis, doesn't have access to that
7 knowledge, doesn't realize that this is what the
8 overhead picture that was going on.

9 So I feel like it would have been great
10 if, back in the day, since it says that you guys
11 have been working on evaluating this for the last 50
12 years, I would think that about ten years ago in
13 this -- when you saw the need spiking, that it would
14 have been great, instead of spending all of the
15 money and the time on sending people out to fix
16 every little thing, which I'm sure needed doing,
17 too, just for the immediate, but at the same time,
18 that people could have gone out to the community and
19 said, hey, this is what your actual energy use is,
20 this is -- here's a graph.

21 Let's just show you a graph of what's
22 been going on and let's just show you that the
23 population is increasing. And we already can tell,
24 right now, that we're going to get to a point at
25 which we can't keep fixing it. And so here's our

1 end up -- our solution. But even as he was saying
2 what this is going to be -- he talks about when we
3 all want electric cars, which is not physically
4 possible, by the way, because there isn't enough
5 resources left in the earth to mine, to remake that
6 many cars in the world and make them electric.

7 But, for us to all just continue this
8 increase because the population is going to increase
9 at this point and to continue on that assumption, to
10 look at things and presume that everything is going
11 to keep going the way things have been going since
12 the '60s and '70s, instead of trying to say, hey,
13 these people are people and they are able to adapt
14 and they have the ability to be conscious of what
15 their surrounding is and compassionate and
16 understanding and that they could possibly come
17 together on something.

18 I don't see any of that type of emphasis
19 at all, that there is a possibility that there's
20 even the slightest possibility for humans to change
21 their behavior. Which is one of those things, one
22 of those questions we're going to find out fairly
23 soon, I think, whether or not we are. And that's
24 going to be on a grand scale, not just right now.

25 But I personally believe it's possible.

1 And I also believe that the only way that it is
2 possible is by us believing that it's possible.
3 Because if each one of us in this room right now,
4 having the belief that we don't have to follow this
5 path, that we don't have to follow the same set.
6 Just because I'm an auto mechanic and I know how to
7 do this one thing and I know how to do it over and
8 over again and this is how you solve the problem,
9 that there might be somebody else or a whole set of
10 other people who already know how to solve the
11 problem.

12 But, as he said, you can be talking to a
13 tree because you can say they just talk, talk, talk.
14 Perhaps it's because we don't have money. Perhaps
15 it's because there isn't money there, there isn't an
16 organization because of the way the structure has
17 already been set up. And I'm not saying that's your
18 fault, but that's just something that should be
19 looked at and paid attention to. Because if that
20 funding could go into just creating an organization
21 where people could go and have one resource in the
22 community where people could learn how to do all
23 these things, or we could say it -- I mean, you
24 could pay me, I'll do it. I'll get all the people
25 together and I will man the operations and be a

1 resource hub.

2 I mean, but we need to have something
3 like that set up where people can come in and learn
4 how to build. And, see, these are my ideas for
5 things I would like you to address as far as what to
6 put into the environmental review. But things such
7 as retrofitting old refrigerators into root cellars.
8 So, one, you're getting rid of the bad refrigerators
9 that don't need to be around in the first place,
10 then reusing them. You can also turn those into
11 solar water heaters, solar hot water heaters, which
12 would be another great way to heat our water and
13 it's reusing an old refrigerator that's otherwise
14 going to be thrown in the landfill.

15 I would like to make sure that geothermal
16 is researched. That passive solar for heating,
17 solar ovens, that's something that communities could
18 do, too. Doesn't have to be individuals. I mean,
19 we could have community organizations, community
20 parks, etcetera, that could be implementing solar
21 ovens, and that could be from reclaimed materials.

22 And then on a bigger scale, I really,
23 really, really, really want you to look at and talk
24 to Wells Fargo, Allina, and Midtown Global Market,
25 at the very least, about them implementing thermal

1 energy storage, which is ice on air coil technology.
2 It's proven. It's being used in California with the
3 Southern California Edison Company. They have three
4 different companies that offer it.

5 It's a program that's offered to business
6 customers right now. And by doing so, for those
7 that are not familiar with it, the energy for during
8 this peak mode, peak demand in the summertime, when
9 they're trying to run their air conditioners,
10 instead of it needing to generate that electricity
11 during the peak demand, it could be being generated,
12 storing that energy at nighttime, using off-peak
13 demand. Which means there's a higher chance that it
14 can come from an alternative source of energy, such
15 as wind power, which is coming nicely at nighttime.
16 And then in the daytime, yes, Allina could run their
17 air conditioners off of solar because that's about
18 how much it would need just to run the very, very
19 low energy -- or, the very high energy efficiency,
20 low energy fans that it takes to blow around the
21 cool air from that which had been captured in the
22 nighttime.

23 So I really hope that that can seriously
24 be evaluated and researched in terms of how much
25 that adds up to. And I think that, obviously, if

1 it's not enough, that I'm sure there is plenty of
2 other big businesses within that entire area. I was
3 just looking at a very narrow frame, but I am quite
4 certain there are other businesses that can also
5 experience that.

6 And then the last thing I want to say is
7 that reading the certificate of need application and
8 seeing page 12 where it says that the denial of the
9 certificate of need would result in worsening
10 overload conditions, I feel like that is missing the
11 clause which just says that unless our energy
12 consumption is reduced or mitigated.

13 And having seen the map you just showed,
14 showing the risk, I kind of feel like I'm looking at
15 somebody's arteries. And that as a doctor we're
16 being prescribed cholesterol lowering drugs, except
17 not asking a patient to look at their diet at all.
18 This is a patient that's eating McDonald's every
19 day, drinking, smoking, not eating enough
20 vegetables. But the same way the patient's health
21 is not going to be fixed, neither is our community
22 energy diet. Sometimes it's hard to make the
23 changes, but so far we haven't been restricting the
24 diet yet.

25 So I really feel like these are all

1 things that we can do, but we have to be given the
2 opportunity and we need to be given the funds.
3 Someone has to put forward the effort. And since
4 this is where the -- since you're the ones driving
5 the required -- or, legally required to meet our
6 energy needs, I feel like this is the place where
7 you could be putting forward options toward the
8 community for giving us that infrastructure, that
9 overhead.

10 So, thank you.

11 MR. STORM: Thank you, Carrie.

12 Sean -- boy -- Gosiewski.

13 MS. JOHNSON: I don't think he's here.

14 MR. STORM: We'll hold it. Maybe he'll
15 show up.

16 Okay. Tanja Birke. Please state and
17 spell your name.

18 MS. BIRKE: Thank you for almost
19 pronouncing that correctly. It's Tanja, T-A-N-J-A.
20 And Birke, B-I-R-K-E.

21 I have three questions. One, I'm not
22 completely sure I understand what the proposal is
23 based on. What I've heard here tonight, and I'm
24 sure I missed a lot of meetings, but I don't know
25 what a substation is. And it sounds like on this

1 thing that Paul gave us, it sounds like there were
2 four alternatives proposed. But you're telling me
3 that the underground was the one that's been
4 recommended. So is there a way you could quickly
5 describe what's actually being proposed?

6 MR. STORM: Sure. I think maybe Paul can
7 handle that, though.

8 MR. LEHMAN: First, we'll start with your
9 question: What is a substation? Substation is a
10 structure or a location where we take one voltage of
11 power and convert it to another voltage of power.
12 So right now -- I'm not sure how familiar you are,
13 if you travel down Hiawatha, there's a large
14 substation that you'll notice as you're traveling
15 south on Hiawatha, off to the east, on your left
16 side.

17 So it's a structure where the higher
18 voltage power lines come into it and then the
19 voltage is stepped down to a lower voltage and
20 then --

21 MR. SUDHEIMER: Where on Hiawatha is
22 that? Where?

23 MR. LEHMAN: What street is the Hiawatha
24 on?

25 MS. ASAH: 38th.

1 MR. LEHMAN: 38th and Hiawatha, is where
2 the Southtown substation is. So that's what the
3 substation does.

4 Now --

5 MS. BIRKE: The proposal is to put an
6 underground?

7 MR. LEHMAN: The proposal that was
8 recommended by the administrative law judge was to
9 build those substations that we talked about, one by
10 Hiawatha and one by what we call Midtown, Oakland
11 and 28th, and connect them between each other with a
12 transmission line that goes underground.

13 MS. BIRKE: Thank you. So I'm wondering
14 what -- where in the process -- is there room in the
15 process to look at the -- decreasing the usage,
16 which I know a number of people have already asked
17 about. But when you're looking at the environmental
18 impact of answering the problem and responding to
19 this problem of an increased need, is there any room
20 to look at actually decreasing the need?

21 MR. STORM: We are currently working the
22 certificate of need docket. Okay? We ran the
23 routing document about two-thirds of the way, we
24 stopped, and now we started because of the new
25 legislation, the CON docket. The CON docket is

1 actually the appropriate place where conservation,
2 demand side management, those concepts are flushed
3 out. And in my environmental report what I will do
4 is I will lay out -- and Xcel, I know Xcel has
5 already laid it out in their CON application, but I
6 will flush it out in the environmental document of
7 what has Xcel done from a DSM standpoint. And that
8 is encouraging people to switch their light bulbs,
9 encourage people to use blankets over their hot
10 water heaters.

11 All the things that we are encouraged to
12 do, the diet, as Carrie was talking about, all the
13 things we're encouraged to do to lessen the need.
14 This is the platform for that. This process that
15 we're doing now.

16 MS. BIRKE: Okay. So not only are you
17 looking at the residents, but you're also looking at
18 the businesses, which seem to be the greater
19 problem, just driving up the need. And where are we
20 requiring them to look at their usage and what can
21 we do to decrease their consumption?

22 MR. STORM: Okay. The environmental
23 report will layout what DSM, demand side management,
24 that Xcel has done through the years to this point,
25 what they're currently doing, and what they project

1 they can do into the future. You know, how much can
2 they -- how much -- how successful have they been
3 and what's their modeling showing, how sensitive
4 they can be on the DSM side. As one person spoke,
5 Xcel can't force people to go on a diet, they can
6 only explain to people pros and cons of doing that.
7 But we will flush that out.

8 MS. BIRKE: When an organization,
9 corporation, a business applies for a permit to have
10 their business in our area, we could ask them to
11 implement environmental practices to decrease their
12 consumption, you know, requiring them to put in
13 solar panels on their -- you know, especially when a
14 corporation like, you know, Children's, which is
15 actually putting up new buildings, that they make
16 those new buildings energy efficient.

17 Is there a way to -- you know, where in
18 the process of requiring them, so that when they
19 want to make our community a better place to live
20 because, look at us, we have a great hospital nearby
21 and it's creating all sorts of new jobs for us, but
22 you know what? We don't want -- look what the
23 sacrifice is.

24 MR. STORM: The PUC doesn't have the
25 authority to do the conceptual thing you're talking

1 about. That's either a legislative issue or a local
2 unit of government issue.

3 MS. BIRKE: Then my last question is:
4 How is the cost for this project shared between the
5 residents and businesses?

6 MR. STORM: I'm going to let Paul --

7 MR. LEHMAN: Simple answer is it's
8 passed. Let's just say it's the typical project
9 that we plan and we build and we put in service and
10 then we ask the Public Utilities Commission for
11 permission to start charging our customers for that.
12 General rule is that all customers pay for it in
13 some portion to the way they use their power.

14 So homeowners, businesses, they'll all
15 pay for part of the facility. If the facility's
16 something special, beyond what would normally be
17 built for a group of customers, there's potential
18 that some individual customers will pay a portion of
19 that, sort of a special facilities type charge. We
20 don't know if that's going to be the case here or
21 not. But those are sort of the realm of
22 possibilities that might come about and how
23 customers would start paying for this.

24 MS. BIRKE: Thank you.

25 MR. STORM: Thank you. Given that I've

1 gone through all my cards, I will go by show of
2 hands.

3 MS. JOHNSON: He's on his way. He'll be
4 here in five minutes.

5 MR. STORM: Okay. We'll take him when he
6 gets here.

7 The gentleman in the back with the yellow
8 tie, if you would step to the podium and state and
9 spell your name, please.

10 MR. SUDHEIMER: Hi, my name is Lou,
11 L-O-U, Sudheimer, S-U-D-H-E-I-M-E-R.

12 And the one observation I want to make
13 was regarding Frank's comments. That I was at a
14 hearing recently where the utilities were coming in
15 to talk about the CIP or the CIP program, which
16 stands for conservation improvement program, which
17 is the energy reduction. And I don't know Xcel's
18 situation, maybe Xcel can testify as to the effect
19 of this, of their CIP efforts. But I believe it was
20 Great River Energy and one other utility where --
21 which serves the northern suburbs were discussing
22 the effectiveness of the program. And, of course,
23 there's been a reduction in demand because of the
24 economy.

25 But these executives of that utility,

1 which also served a portion of our metro area, were
2 amazingly surprised at how effective the demand
3 reduction programs have been. And they said that
4 they had absolutely no plans to build future
5 generation because of the conservation.

6 So it can work and it can work very
7 effectively, if it's properly implemented with an
8 intent to actually accomplish the reduction, genuine
9 attempt to reduce it.

10 MR. STORM: Thank you. Show of hands.
11 Yes, this lady here.

12 Please state and spell your name.

13 MS. BALFOUR: Hi. My name is Lynn
14 Balfour, L-Y-N-N, Balfour, B-A-L-F-O-U-R. And I
15 came tonight, I've been to some of the routing
16 meetings, which is really, before I get to my issues
17 here, when I came to those routing meetings, it's
18 really what motivated me to do some energy
19 conservation in my house. So for those people who
20 think people and our behaviors can't change, I can
21 tell you, information is power and that does lead to
22 change in behavior.

23 So I'm a big supporter of the
24 conservation. And so we just recently had our attic
25 insulated and did all the light bulbs and all that

1 stuff, too. But all of that was a result of the
2 routing meetings. So I want to put that out there.

3 But back to the agenda here, I really
4 want to speak in support. On page 6 there, the
5 alternatives to the proposed HVTL, I really want to
6 speak in support of the no-build alternative, the
7 demand side management, and the upgrading of exiting
8 facilities points there. And I guess I would ask
9 you to really articulate in detail and explain to
10 the public the efforts thus far that Xcel has put
11 forward on those three areas in particular that
12 would be on my wish list.

13 I guess the other thing I would add, too,
14 is, you know, when I think about what I do at my
15 workplace each and every day and when we have
16 problems that arise, you know, we try to do some
17 problem solving and identify, you know, where's the
18 problem, where's the biggest source of the problem?
19 And I try to compare that to tonight's presentation
20 about those big users and high demand users, the
21 hospitals and, you know, some of the corridor areas.

22 And I guess if I was in charge of running
23 the world, I would approach those big users, and
24 perhaps that has been done, but approach those big
25 users and, you know, really give them incentive and

1 motivation to changing how they do business. It can
2 be done.

3 And then the last point I'll throw out
4 there before turning the microphone over is, you
5 know, the solution that Xcel has put forward is to
6 build these new stations and upgrade everything and
7 make it bigger and better. And, yes, it will work
8 for who knows how long, but what's going to happen
9 20, 30, or 40 years down the road? Are we going to
10 have to again feed the beast and build something
11 bigger and bigger and bigger and more of them to
12 just keep feeding this increasingly energy demand
13 beast that we've created ourselves, of course.

14 I hope I'm not around to see that day,
15 when Xcel is back here at the table in this
16 neighborhood asking for the same thing because we
17 didn't do it right the first time and we're being
18 asked to create all these new -- you know, these new
19 stations and voltage lines. It's just so
20 discouraging in so many ways.

21 So I just really want to ask you to
22 clearly articulate in your proposal the no-build
23 efforts, the demand side management efforts, and the
24 upgrading existing facilities work that has been
25 demonstrated and documented as put forward by

1 itself. Those are my comments.

2 MR. STORM: Thank you very much. Would
3 anyone else like to speak?

4 Angelina. Please state and spell your
5 name.

6 MS. MATIAS-VAZQUEZ: My name is Angelina
7 Matias-Vazquez. Angelina, spelled A-N-G-E-L-I-N-A.
8 Matias, M-A-T-I-A-S, Vazquez V-A-Z, as in zebra,
9 Q-U-E-Z, as in zebra. Thank you.

10 I would, just for a moment, would like to
11 kind of set the record straight. And I would like
12 to say that a lot of people from the community took
13 a lot of their time last summer to come to the state
14 capitol and work with our state representative Karen
15 Clark, our senator Linda Berglin, and our council
16 member Lindgren. These were the people who together
17 we work really hard to get this certificate of need
18 passed, legislation.

19 And so one of the reasons why we even
20 were successful at passing this legislation is
21 because, in fact, we were not really talking about a
22 1.5 mile of this high voltage power line but, in
23 fact, was more like 12 miles. When research was
24 done we found out it was actually a lot bigger and
25 they were just sectioning it off so they wouldn't

1 have to comply with the certificate of need.

2 But thank God the certificate of need
3 legislation has given us this opportunity to be here
4 today and demand that Xcel Energy takes us very
5 seriously and that it incorporates in its
6 certificate of need application. At this point they
7 failed to show how a bundle of alternative sources
8 of renewable energy resources could, when put
9 together, potentially address the electricity needs
10 of this area. Xcel Energy has a responsibility by
11 state law to assess alternatives to these high
12 voltage power lines. And it is unacceptable that
13 they have made no serious attempt to do so in this
14 application.

15 It is expected and we demand that Xcel
16 make a major investment in its infrastructure by
17 bringing the smart grid technology to this area,
18 upgrade the substations that exist now. And Xcel
19 Energy should invest, and I mean invest a serious, a
20 serious amount of money in this area in renewables
21 for residential and commercial. Renewable energy
22 such as solar energy, energy storage capabilities,
23 as well as other renewable, such as wind use,
24 etcetera.

25 I want to mention that every year

1 approximately \$81 million is paid to the utilities
2 by residents and businesses owners from the Phillips
3 area for energy usage. This doesn't even include
4 the entire area that the Xcel Hiawatha project is
5 looking at, which is a much larger area. So, if all
6 of the Phillips area then is extracting this much
7 amount of money, that means it's about \$7 million a
8 month that we could be using along -- well, a
9 portion of that should be reinvested back into the
10 community.

11 And the other thing is that it's very
12 unfortunate that our community doesn't have the
13 money to have -- to hire a lawyer to represent us in
14 this process, leaving us very vulnerable. But, so,
15 we could use the funds that Xcel is using in
16 building this underground high voltage power lines,
17 which are not needed because so much research has
18 been done and it's been proven. And, in fact, there
19 are people in our community who are already install
20 solar systems on their homes.

21 And so I have a dream that one day we
22 will implement this energy democracy. By that I
23 mean that everybody will be able to install a solar
24 energy in their home, produce enough energy for
25 ourselves and for our community, and even sell

1 energy back to the grid. In essence, becoming a
2 small business. This is what it means to be energy
3 democratization. Then we forget about that because
4 with this same solar system that we have in our
5 home, we would be able to charge our batteries in
6 our electrical vehicles. And we would forget about
7 gas stations and pollution.

8 So, I guess this is our opportunity to
9 tell Xcel Energy that we don't want this high
10 voltage power lines, they're not needed, and this is
11 not a solution that we support because this is not
12 really looking into the future. This is not the
13 solution. Time is running out for earth's climate
14 system. Energy giants such as Xcel have to stop
15 mucking up our health and the health of the planet
16 for the sake of the private profits.

17 The conventional electric delivery system
18 is the path of least resistance and the source of
19 highest profits for Xcel. And the corporation has
20 no intention of changing unless it is forced to do
21 so.

22 So together we ought to stand together
23 and demand that Xcel and the PUC and the State of
24 Minnesota make sure that Xcel Energy seriously
25 consider alternative source of energy, not one by

1 one, but together. We should be able to have enough
2 energy not to need this high voltage power lines.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. STORM: Thank you.

5 Sean, you're up.

6 MR. GOSIEWSKI: Thank you, everybody.

7 MR. STORM: Please state and spell your
8 name.

9 MS. GOSIEWSKI: Sean Gosiewski. S-E-A-N.
10 Gosiewski, G-O-S-I-E-W-S-K-I. And I work with the
11 Alliance for Sustainability and I'm also a volunteer
12 with our neighborhood Corcoran Group. It's a
13 transition town group over by the Midtown Y there in
14 the Corcoran neighborhood.

15 And I want to just talk about the
16 certificate of need. And one of the things we
17 realize is that our community will be needing a lot
18 more need to cool ourselves in the summer in the
19 future because of the potential of many more days
20 above 100 degrees with a lot more humidity. With
21 climate change we will be facing a need for
22 increased -- keeping ourself cool. We're really
23 hoping that we can work with Xcel on getting tools
24 in people's hands to really help them to reduce the
25 peak load, while at the same time keeping ourselves

1 comfortable.

2 So we would really like to encourage Xcel
3 to work with the really major groups in the area,
4 like the -- like this Midtown Building and the
5 Allina center, to work on state-of-the-art cooling
6 technologies where they could try to conserve their
7 need for peak demand electricity.

8 We also would like to work with getting
9 out into the community more efficient dehumidifiers
10 and air conditioners, as well as getting folks
11 signed up for the savers' wish program. So our
12 community is really getting organized. We'll be
13 having about 600 community volunteers joining us on
14 April 9th. And we have new transition town groups
15 that are in Phillips, Powderhorn, Corcoran and
16 Longfellow.

17 So we feel if Xcel would work with us, we
18 would like to really educate our neighbors about how
19 to use our windows and fans, how to save inside the
20 savers' wish program, how to get really efficient
21 air conditioners and dehumidifiers, and do what we
22 can to really measure and really attack our peak
23 demand and get it down.

24 And so I think if we work with residents,
25 as well as with the really major buildings in the

1 area that have cooling systems, to pursue other
2 things that can, for example, create ice in non-peak
3 times of the day, where they can then use that ice,
4 say, maybe freeze in the basement, to let it cool
5 the building during the peak times during the day,
6 as well as perhaps district cooling. If there could
7 be ways of looking at district heating and cooling.
8 So we would really like to, if possible, to forgo
9 the need for new power lines by, as a community,
10 really getting our peak demand down together.

11 So thanks again.

12 MR. STORM: Thank you, Sean. Does anyone
13 else -- yes, sir. Please step to the podium and
14 state and spell your name.

15 MR. BLATTNER: Thank you. My name is
16 Evan, E-V-A-N, Blattner, B-L-A-T-T-N-E-R.

17 So I've heard -- I've heard one of my
18 neighbors say we don't need these power lines. And
19 I've heard an executive from the power company say
20 we need these power lines. And I just want to state
21 that I don't feel like that's really enough
22 information, saying that we need them or we don't.

23 MS. JOHNSON: They have a document, it's
24 like two inches thick, on the thing that you have to
25 read.

1 MR. BLATTNER: All right. I saw his
2 graphic, the red and the green. It was a compelling
3 graphic but --

4 MR. STORM: There is a certificate of
5 need document there, it's online, it's available, if
6 you want -- I know we have copies, if you want a
7 disk. Like Carrie said, it's like this thick
8 (indicating). It's basically an analysis produced
9 by Xcel in support of their position of why there is
10 a need and why this line is in the best interests to
11 fulfil. I mean, that's Xcel's position.

12 MS. JOHNSON: And it's at the library.

13 MR. STORM: It's at the library, too.

14 MS. JOHNSON: I don't think it's at all
15 of them. I think it's at Franklin, for sure.

16 MR. STORM: I believe it's in several
17 libraries. If you go to our website that I showed
18 you on the thing and you look up the notice for this
19 meeting, there is a whole list of libraries that
20 it's at.

21 MR. BLATTNER: Okay. Great.

22 My next question, I suppose, probably is
23 going to be handed to Paul. It's about the
24 substations. I'm curious about what size, like
25 acreage wise, they would take up.

1 MR. STORM: Okay. I'll go to Paul.

2 MR. LEHMAN: And I'm going to quickly
3 bring up another member of our team who can speak to
4 the physical dimensions of the substation.

5 MS. McNELLY: Sorry, I don't think in
6 acres.

7 MR. BLATTNER: That's fine. Square feet.

8 MS. McNELLY: Hiawatha, I guess, is about
9 three and a half acres. I'm sorry. Susan McNelly.
10 S-U-S-A-N. McNelly, M-C-N-E-L-L-Y.

11 Hiawatha, that is about three and a half
12 acres, and the Midtown is about two acres.

13 MR. BLATTNER: Okay. And there's going
14 to be -- the proposal is for two new substations, is
15 that correct?

16 MS. McNELLY: Yes, one on 38th over off
17 Hiawatha and then one between 28th, I'm sorry.

18 MR. BLATTNER: Because there exists one
19 at 38th and Hiawatha.

20 MS. McNELLY: Yeah, 28th. And then one
21 between Portland and Oakland, right adjacent to the
22 new line.

23 MR. BLATTNER: Okay. So that's -- and
24 then -- I'm sorry, I shouldn't have asked in acres.
25 Can you give square blocks? Half a square block?

1 MS. McNELLY: The Hiawatha, we don't have
2 an exact dimension yet. There's options that we can
3 do that have different dimensions. I would say
4 about 400 by 300, somewhere in that area. I don't
5 remember off the top of my head. Midtown is about
6 150 by 250 feet, the dimensions.

7 MR. BLATTNER: About maybe five housing
8 sections?

9 MS. McNELLY: No. The Midtown, actually,
10 we own most of the property right now. There was an
11 existing substation there until about two, three
12 years ago. We would use that property. There is
13 a -- an open spot next to it and then there is a
14 triplex that had been condemned at one time, I don't
15 know if it still is, that we were looking at also
16 taking. So that would be the only property that
17 isn't vacant and not used at this time that would be
18 needed.

19 MR. BLATTNER: And you said the Hiawatha
20 property you already own?

21 MS. McNELLY: No, just the -- what we
22 used to call the Oakland substation site.

23 MR. BLATTNER: So who owns the property
24 where the 28th and Hiawatha --

25 MS. JOHNSON: The Hennepin County Regional.

1 MS. McNELLY: MNDOT owns that.

2 MR. BLATTNER: All right. Thank you.

3 My last question is regarding the ALJ
4 said that -- made a suggestion that, yes, the
5 underground route is the best.

6 MR. STORM: In the routing docket, which
7 was the docket that we went through all summer,
8 after the contested case hearing and the briefs,
9 reply briefs, counter briefs and all that and the
10 ALJ released her report, she recommended a route
11 that runs along 28th and she recommended that the
12 route be underground. And she recommended the
13 Hiawatha site, preferred site, and then the Midtown
14 site.

15 MR. BLATTNER: Okay. And are those
16 suggestions? Are they --

17 MR. STORM: They are recommendations.

18 MR. BLATTNER: Recommendations.

19 MR. STORM: The recommendations to the
20 Public Utilities Commission. The Public Utilities
21 Commission is the ultimate decisionmaker.

22 MR. BLATTNER: So PUC -- Xcel would use
23 that or not use at it all?

24 MR. STORM: Once it resumes again and the
25 record comes back to my office, I will assemble the

1 record and put together my recommendations and
2 present the record in the case to the PUC for a
3 final decision. The PUC will make three decisions.
4 One is they'll decide whether or not my EIS I wrote
5 was adequate and, two, they'll decide whether to
6 grant a route permit to Xcel and, three, they will
7 decide what route should be selected.

8 MR. BLATTNER: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. STORM: Yes, ma'am, in the mauve.
10 You turned around. You, right there. Yes. State
11 and spell your name. Thank you.

12 MS. SCHACK: Hi. I'm Lesley Schack.
13 L-E-S-L-E-Y, S-C-H-A-C-K. I live in the Midtown
14 Exchange Building. And I just have a couple of
15 questions. My first is: How much weight does the
16 PUC give to the administrative law judge's
17 recommendation for routing? I sense everyone --

18 MR. STORM: I can't really speak for the
19 PUC. I think it's significant, but I can't speak
20 for the PUC.

21 MS. SCHACK: So it's a big piece, though,
22 of the puzzle. Okay.

23 And then just a couple of comments about
24 the environmental effects section of the draft
25 environmental report. Specifically, the land use

1 and transportation sections. While it's not -- it
2 doesn't sound like it's going to be built along the
3 Greenway, I'm just wondering if there's a way to
4 build in research or potential impacts. If it were
5 built on the Greenway, how would that affect light
6 rail or streetcar use? Because I hear that there
7 might be plans for that in the future. So I'm just
8 wondering if you looked at that.

9 MR. STORM: In the routing docket, the
10 proceeding we did all through the summer, and the
11 environmental impact statement that was written for
12 that does detail that. What we did, we looked at
13 that, we laid out what the various concepts for the
14 Greenway are and how compatible that would be with
15 either aboveground or underground route and we laid
16 that out.

17 MS. JOHNSON: I think that's the answer
18 to her first question, about what the Commission can
19 do, decide, those four things.

20 MR. STORM: Okay. So if you go to the
21 web -- if you go to our website and you look at the
22 routing document and you look at the EIS, you will
23 see a section in there that talks about the plans
24 for the Greenway, the trolly, the light rail, the
25 various concepts, and how the route that was

1 proposed to run on the Greenway, overhead and below
2 ground, how that would impact that. That's all
3 contained in that document.

4 MS. SCHACK: And then can I ask one more?

5 MR. STORM: Sure.

6 MS. SCHACK: I hear that there might be
7 health impacts of building aboveground lines close
8 to where people live. Does -- has anything -- have
9 any of your reports looked at that? I'm guessing
10 they have, but I'm just curious about, you know,
11 what you looked at and what you know.

12 MR. STORM: Again, we're in this
13 juxtaposition because I sort of did the second part
14 before I did the first part because of the way the
15 legislation went. Again, I bring you back to the
16 EIS, environmental impact statement, for the routing
17 does talk about EMF generically, what is it, what
18 are the studies around the world showing? And then
19 it also talks about specifically for each of the
20 routes that we're evaluating what the EMF would be
21 for the various lines, the various distances and
22 heights. And that's all in that document.

23 Understand that that document was done
24 before the hearing. We went through the hearing, we
25 had three weeks of testimony, and the judge's report

1 came out. The judge recommending 28th Street, bury
2 them.

3 MS. SCHACK: Thank you.

4 MR. STORM: You're welcome.

5 MS. JOHNSON: I think that's the answer,
6 though, to her first question about what the PUC
7 can -- how they making a decision.

8 MR. STORM: Carrie, why don't you hand it
9 to her, because there's too much there to go over.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. I'll give it to her.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Anyone else want to
12 make a comment, ask a question? Yes. Please step
13 up. State and spell your name.

14 MR. STRUCK: My name is Dan Struck.
15 D-A-N, S-T-R-U-C-K. And my question was about
16 eminent domain. One of you mentioned that depending
17 on what route was chosen, that the domain would be
18 in effect. So what is that, what properties would
19 likely be affected by that?

20 MR. STORM: Since Xcel is a regulated
21 utility, if they were to be granted a CON and then
22 they would be granted a route permit for this
23 transmission lane, along with that permit comes
24 their right to go through eminent domain to get
25 property. I can certainly have Xcel talk to you,

1 but basically eminent domain is their ability to
2 take property.

3 And there is a process that's done. It's
4 outside of our process. But it is a process that's
5 done that assesses the value of the property, sets
6 up the mediation between the property owner and
7 Xcel, if they can't reach an agreement outside of
8 domain, and proceed that way. We do have a fact
9 sheet on it.

10 We don't deal with it directly, but since
11 there are eminent domain complications or issues
12 after the fact, we do put a fact sheet that shows --
13 explains how eminent domain is handled in Minnesota
14 and where you can get further information.

15 MR. STRUCK: Thanks.

16 MR. STORM: Okay. Would anybody else
17 like to make a comment? Is Frank -- do you want to
18 speak again?

19 MR. LORENZ: You said that we could speak
20 a second time if everybody else is --

21 MR. STORM: Yes, you can come up, Frank.
22 Please state and spell your name again.

23 MR. LORENZ: You don't mind if I change
24 it for the second time?

25 MR. STORM: Whatever you feel comfortable

1 with.

2 MR. LORENZ: I'm not sure if you've seen
3 this before, but this may be your answer to
4 transmission towers in the future from Iceland.

5 MR. STORM: Okay. I assume you don't
6 want that in the record.

7 MR. LORENZ: Well, it's not profane.

8 MR. STORM: No, it's not profane.

9 MR. LORENZ: You can put it in the
10 record. It's an interesting concept. I'm not sure
11 we'll have the money to build it.

12 Frank Lorenz. L-O-R-E-N-Z.

13 I'm a little bit concerned that some
14 people are talking about alternatives as if they
15 were right around the corner or proven technology.
16 And that's -- at the best its wishful thinking, at
17 the worst you're going to get yourself in a jackpot.
18 I've been listening to people tell me that solar
19 power is right around the corner, and other people
20 tell me that nuclear fusion, which creates more fuel
21 than it consumes, is right around the corner.

22 I've been listening to those statements
23 since the early 1950s. And, unfortunately, although
24 the people over in St. Paul, at the state capitol
25 can write laws, they're not really good at repealing

1 them. And in order to make those things come true,
2 they have to repeal two of the three laws of
3 thermodynamics, and I don't think they can get it to
4 happen.

5 So beginning about seven or eight years
6 ago the next big thing was going to be wind power.
7 And the state kind of twisted Xcel's arm to make
8 them commit to generate 25 percent of their power
9 consumption in re -- not recyclable, but renewable
10 fuels by some date in the future.

11 Now we're finding out that wind power
12 isn't quite as wonderful as was presented because
13 the turbines make noise and they interfere with
14 sunlight. So if you're a farmer and you have a wind
15 farm on your property, you may be triggering a
16 grand mal seizure if you're subject to it, or at
17 least the light flickers through your windows on
18 sunny days.

19 And the final problem with wind energy as
20 we have it is that you have to have backup power.
21 In other words, if you're going to bring on a field
22 of wind power with X-hundred kilowatts or megawatts,
23 you know, you can put the decimal point wherever you
24 want it. You have to have something else, whether
25 that's coal or nuclear. But you have to have backup

1 power because the wind doesn't blow hard all the
2 time. And if you don't have that backup power, then
3 the lights are going to go out.

4 So the cost of wind power is not just the
5 cost of the wind farm and the sophisticated
6 transmission lines and switching gears to get it
7 from southwestern Minnesota up to the Twin Cities
8 where it's needed, but you also have to build
9 conventional power of some kind or you have to get
10 everybody to agree that they will make their peace
11 with having their lights go out when the wind
12 doesn't blow in Pipestone, Minnesota. And
13 politicians never get around that. But, you know,
14 it's a nasty reality of the state of the art.

15 So, you know, I'm all for conservation,
16 but you need -- you know, the 30 people or 35 people
17 in this room, there are 385,000 people that live in
18 Minneapolis, you know, so I'm not going to do the
19 division, but if I had to -- if I had to take a
20 vote, you know, if anyone in this room cares, so
21 what? It's one one-thousandth of one percent of the
22 population. Where is everybody else? They're
23 watching their 50-inch color TV and they've got the
24 computer on right beside it.

25 So I don't have any love affair with Xcel

1 Energy, but the sad reality is that at the very
2 worst you're the smartest guys in the dumb row
3 because you're rated consistently, over the last 30
4 years, as being one of the five top utilities in the
5 country. And Minnesota has a horrible business
6 climate in terms of taxes and weather and all the
7 other things you read about in the paper. But the
8 one thing we have a wonderful business climate in is
9 the low cost of power. And that didn't happen by
10 accident. I believe in luck, but nobody is lucky
11 for 30 years in a row.

12 So, you know, Xcel Energy has done more
13 right than wrong over the years. And I think, you
14 know, in this project, which is a big deal for the
15 people that have to live with it in this
16 neighborhood, but it's a small blip on Xcel Energy's
17 balance sheet. Xcel Energy really doesn't care what
18 this costs because I believe that your assets are
19 classified under the four or five different
20 categories of assets and you're given a different
21 rate of return on them under statute.

22 And this is not the highest risk -- or
23 highest return asset, that would be the power
24 generating plants. But I believe that the high
25 voltage transmission lines are the second one down.

1 So other things being equal, Xcel Energy
2 stockholders would be best served if you take the
3 most expensive alternative. And I'm not suggesting
4 that you do that. In fact, I'm sure that you're not
5 doing that.

6 But the reality is that you don't have
7 any skin in the game financially on how this thing
8 gets done because you're going to get your statutory
9 rate of return on whatever the costs are. And I and
10 everybody else are going to pay that rate of return
11 and at the end of the day we'll all go home and
12 watch TV.

13 So I'm just concerned that this doesn't
14 morph into an endless, well, if we just wait another
15 five years, then the kilowatt fairy will come down
16 and we can each have one in our attic and we won't
17 need any electric power to come in from a central
18 generating source or not. I mean, there's a reality
19 to having power around. And if you want a MRI scan,
20 if you're in an automobile accident, or an x-ray, or
21 any of the other sophisticated procedures that they
22 do at Abbott Northwestern or the University of
23 Minnesota, you're not going to be able to power it
24 by a solar cell on the roof. You know, you have to
25 have the correct amount of power and you have to

1 have it at the touch of a switch. And these
2 alternative energy sources that everybody seems to
3 be -- especially the politicians seem to be so
4 enamored with, have huge costs.

5 I mean, I'll finish now, but, you know,
6 wind power, you have to have a backup source and
7 it's either nuclear or steam coal or buying it from
8 Canadian Hydro. And that's part of Minnesota's mix
9 and it has been for 20 years. And the Canadians
10 seem to be willing to dam their rivers and screw up
11 their ecology in order to sell us power. And it's
12 effective, at least the cost of it so far is
13 effective to use as standby power, but it's
14 extremely expensive.

15 And if we continue to not want to build
16 another power plant ever, or not want to do some of
17 these other things, like getting power to the right
18 spot in a neighborhood, then the lights are going to
19 start going out. And it's not clear what people
20 will do when that happens. If it happens once, it's
21 just a bad thing, but if the lights go out every two
22 weeks all summer long, I think you're going to find
23 some of the people that say they believe in
24 conservation storming the state capitol to have them
25 change their minds again so that they can then site

1 a new power plant which will take 12 years to build.

2 So, you know, it's important to have
3 your -- you know, some grasp of reality. And Xcel
4 is somewhat indifferent to it. You know, if you're
5 told by the state legislators or the administrative
6 law judge that you can't build this thing, then you
7 won't build it because your executives don't want to
8 go to jail. But when the lights go out, it won't be
9 your problem because it's force du jour and all you
10 have to do is point to the library full of documents
11 that said everybody told us we couldn't build it, so
12 we didn't build it. And that's not a good
13 alternative, if I'm laying in the hospital and I
14 need a CAT scan. So.

15 MR. STORM: Thank you, Frank. Okay.
16 Anyone else want to speak? Raise your hand.

17 Seeing no show of hands. I want to
18 remind you if you have suggestions for the scope of
19 the environmental report, for the certificate of
20 need, you need to get them to me by April 6th, 2011.
21 Again, you can fax, you can e-mail, you can mail.
22 And we also have electronic capability on our
23 website. I do appreciate you coming. The process
24 needs people to participate. Thank you.

25 (Meeting concluded at 7:54 p.m.)

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